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Assignment #4: Text Set

**Friendship/Community**

**Topic:** Friendship & Classroom Community

**Description of the Unit:** Use a variety of texts to generate discussion about friendship & developing community within the classroom. I would use these texts at the beginning of the year, during small group discussion & mini-lessons. I envision them helping me introduce a variety of topics that relate to creating a positive, harmonious classroom environment.

**Grade Level:** PreK – 3rd Grade

**Objectives:**

* To help students understand the importance of developing a strong classroom community within our classroom.
* To engage students in the process of developing positive classroom rules & procedures.
* To help students work towards becoming caring, compassionate peers within the classroom environment.

**Books/Read Alouds**

Bley, Anette. *A Friend* (2008). La Jolla, California: Kane/Miller Book Publishers,Inc.

This is a story about friendship. It goes through a variety of scenarios of when it’s good to have a friend. For instance, it’s good to have a friend “who holds me when I need to be comforted” and “someone to dance and laugh with when I am happy.” The illustrations are bright, colorful & inviting.

Gordon, Sharon. *We Follow the Rules* (2006). Marshall Cavendish Corporation.

This is a great, simplistic non-fiction book about following classroom rules. This book talks about following basic classroom rules, such as raising hands, lining up, taking turns & listening. This would be a great book to use in a mini-lesson at the beginning of the year before creating your own classroom rules!

Klingel, Cynthia A. *Learn About Values: Generosity. Learn About Values: Loyalty. Learn About Values: Respect* and *Learn About Values: Tolerance* (1980). Mankato, MN: The Child’s World.

This is a collection of child friendly books that talk about a variety of values. The books discuss topics such as respecting others, your school & other people’s things. They also discuss loyalty to your friends, family & peers and having tolerance at school and in your neighborhood. This collection of non-fiction, child-friendly books will be good to use as mentor texts when introducing these topics w/ my students.

Kyle, Kathryn. *Cooperation.* (2003). Chanhassen, MN: The Child’s World, Inc.

This is another non-fiction book that would be great to use during a beginning of the year mini-lesson about fostering cooperation in the classroom. The book goes through a variety of scenarios where children are cooperating with peers.

Moser, Adolph. *Don’t Feed The Monster On Tuesdays!* (1991). Kansas City, MO: Landmark Editions, Inc.

This fictional story talks about self-esteem & embracing children’s unique differences. The story talks about the negative thoughts we sometimes have in our heads, either about ourselves or others, which is like a little green monster. The monster comes out & wants to hurt other children’s feelings. The monster seems like an easy way for kids to identify with in terms of hurting people’s feelings.

Salzmann, Mary Elizabeth. *I Am Fair*. (2003). Edina, MN: ABDO Publishing Co.

This is an easy-to-read, non-fiction story that discuses the concept of fairness.

All of the above mentioned titles would be great to use in mini-lessons, which is what I plan to use them for. Although I started Reader’s Workshop this year, I plan to really, fully implement it this year. These books will be great to incorporate into mini-lessons at the beginning of the year, as we are creating classroom rules & creating an open, cooperative learning environment; as well as revisit throughout the school year.

**Websites**

<http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/book_details.asp?Category=PictureBooks&isflash=1>

Tumblebooks is a website located on the Normal Public Library website that has numerous children’s books that are read aloud in a variety of fun voices that are full of expression. There is a section on Friends/Family that you can access, as well as School, which would support this Text Set.

<http://bkflix.grolier.com/>

Bookflix is a website that must be purchased & our school has access to. There are a collection of stories, that are read to you. According to the topic, there is both a fiction & non-fiction story that correlates. Among the topics, there are headings under Family & Community that would support this Text Set.